

## Chapter 13

Chapter 13 completes a three-chapter comparison of the wise and foolish. The acts and decisions of the righteous and the wicked are contrasted. This chapter seems to focus on the acts of listening, speaking, wisdom, foolishness, heeding, and apathy. Solomon seeks to teach us to listen to the Lord, have restraint, and love what is good. Listen to the wise, act properly, teach your children, and simply be good.

**Verse 1:** We have seen the truth of this verse from chapter one onward. The wise son listens, and the mocker does not listen to rebuke. Mockers are often spoken of in the Bible, and they are never put in a good light. Mockers seem to know they are in the wrong but have too much pride to admit it.

### Ps 1:1

1 Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.

NIV

### Acts 13:40-41

40 Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

41 "Look, you scoffers,  
wonder and perish,  
for I am going to do something in your days  
that you would never believe,  
even if someone told you."

NIV

### Mark 10:33-34

They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, 34 who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

NIV

### 2 Peter 3:3

3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

NIV

### **Jude 18-19**

18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." 19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

NIV

**Verse 2:** The fruit of a man's lips is the result of a good heart. The lips are merely a conduit through which the content of the heart comes forth. The godly man has a heart with much to share, and the benefit he bestows comes back to him in fruit as well. Good things come to those who speak well. Slander and profanity are not on his lips; he has the fruit of the Spirit, healing, reviving and encouraging others. All these virtues that come from his lips only boomerang back to him in blessings.

The cravings of the wicked are violence and hurt. His words and actions are not for building up but for destruction. The Christian should be aware of the fruit of his lips.

### **Matt 12:33-37**

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

NIV

**Verse 3:** Guarded lips are a sign of maturity. There are those who simply cannot and can never control their tongues and lips. Their hearts are full of impatience, aggression, violence, and unrestraint. Those who speak rashly do not think before they speak, and they say way too much. Guard your heart, for out of it the issues of life come. Remember that a spoken word can never return whence it came. Words are like seeds planted in the heart. They will germinate and reap a harvest of good or evil. Let the words you speak bring forth produce for the kingdom that can be multiplied in exponential spiritual growth. (Note Romans 3:10-17)

**James 1:19**

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

KJV

**Prov 10:20-21**

20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver,  
but the heart of the wicked is of little value.

21 The lips of the righteous nourish many,  
but fools die for lack of judgment.

NIV

**Rom 3:13-17**

13 "Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit."

"The poison of vipers is on their **lips**."

14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 ruin and misery mark their ways,

17 and the way of peace they do not know."

NIV

**Verse 4:** The economy of God rests in our work. God gave us passion, energy, and dignity to go with His will for our lives. We are to do all we can do that is humanly possible and then trust God with the rest. God gives the honey, but the bees have to go get it. The grapes are from the Lord, but we have to tend the vines. Even in Eden, Adam had to tend the trees prior to his fall into sin. The sluggard will never own a business or write a book. He may not even roll out of bed. The lazy man is a disgrace to the Lord.

**Prov 6:6**

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard;  
consider its ways and be wise!

NIV

**Prov 6:9-11**

9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard?  
When will you get up from your sleep?

10 A little sleep, a little slumber,  
a little folding of the hands to rest —

11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit

and scarcity like an armed man.

NIV

**Prov 19:24**

24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish;  
he will not even bring it back to his mouth!

NIV

**Verse 5:** The righteous hate what is false. The Hebrew word for **false** is **sheqer**, which means **liar or lie**. I know of no one who likes to be lied to. That is a genuine statement, but let's take it a step further. If you know it's false... confront it. It's our responsibility to speak when we see falsehood. We cannot bring God's will to pass, but we do at least need to stand up for it. Shame and disgrace devastate many. We have hope and grace in our possession. The Hebrew says that a wicked man and his lies are **ba'ash**, which means loathsome, or stink. Solomon uses the word **chapher** for the word shame. Shame is not spoken of much anymore. It can be translated as ashamed, confounded, confused, or to bring reproach. Lying brings us to ruin and shame.

**Verse 6:** When sin is exposed, shame abounds. A man of integrity is protected through those days of humiliation by his righteousness. An innocent man has no fear when he is accused of a crime because he knows his integrity will abound. Righteousness is a guard and a fortress, whereas wickedness is a crack in the foundation. Guarded or overthrown?

**Verse 7:** This is a verse that will be true in every generation. Many today have to have the latest fashion and the best technology to prove their wealth. Many of them are in debt up to their eyeballs too. "Stuff" never proves wealth.

Most people who have wealth and integrity never flaunt their wealth. Their wealth is from the Lord and has a different purpose in their life. Their wealth is a tool for the kingdom. People are like houses... some houses are beautiful on the outside, and it's really not a home on the inside. Some houses are poorly kept on the outside but have richness within. Churches are like this as well. Godly people have a different standard of what wealth actually is. Riches never define a person.

**Verse 8:** I think somewhere in this verse Solomon is thinking about eternity. A rich man may ransom his life on this earth, but the next life is a different story. A poor man hears no threat from the beginning. No one will steal him away, for in the eyes of man he is not worth much. Each of us has his own lot in life,

and each life has its troubles, no matter the worth of the man from a worldly standpoint.

**Matt 5:45-46**

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

NIV

**Verse 9:** I have spoken much about Dr. Lawrence Bradley, my grandmother, the ushers at Curtis Baptist, my professors, and my friend Rick Alford, but there are many in my life I do not mention. Their light was dim and was snuffed out. The former were men and women who allowed me to share in their light. They gave so that I may grow in the Lord and learn to let my light shine. I am grateful for their light. Can you think of someone today who has shared their righteousness with you? Can you name a person with whom you are sharing your light as a gift? Don't let the wicked die without seeing your light.

**Matt 5:14-16**

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

NIV

**Verse 10:** We all like to be right. Pride makes us right even when we are wrong. Taking advice is hard to do. Giving it is also hard to do. There are a few rules for giving advice:

1. Make sure you know what you are talking about.
2. Timing... give advice when it is receivable and not humiliating.
3. Privilege... make sure you have the right to do it. Have you invested in the person's life enough to give advice?
4. Make sure you know the whole situation.
5. Check your motives. Why do you want to give the advice? Do you want to help or hurt the person?
6. Do you pridefully just want to be right?

**Verse 11:** Go back to 1:19 and see the difference between investing, saving and hard work instead of ill-gotten gain. God honors honesty and hard work over cheating or chance.

**Jeremiah 17:10-11**

10 "I the Lord search the heart  
and examine the mind,  
to reward a man according to his conduct,  
according to what his deeds deserve."  
11 Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay  
is the man who gains riches by unjust means.  
When his life is half gone, they will desert him,  
and in the end he will prove to be a fool.  
NIV

**Prov 10:2**

2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value,  
but righteousness delivers from death.  
NIV

**Prov 10:19**

22 The blessing of the Lord brings wealth,  
and he adds no trouble to it.  
NIV

**Prov 11:4**

4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,  
but righteousness delivers from death.  
NIV

**Verse 12:** This happens to be my favorite proverb. Since day one of knowing Christ, I have been on a long journey of waiting. God seems to make us wait so long for the spiritual riches we desire. God has a way of growing us so much as we wait for His mighty hand to move. When we wait on the Lord, He is pleased with us. The Psalmist wrote so many times about waiting on God and waiting for deliverance.

When our desires are delayed, it does make us sick, but when God hears from on high, it gladdens the soul and rejoices the mind. I have fond memories of many *trees of life* given after long periods of waiting. Silence is one of God's greatest tools to focus our attention and enhance our passion for an answered prayer. I know that I am in the minority, but I have experienced unanswered pray because God has a right not to answer. This is not a popular view, but it is what I believe. God had to teach me that He is more important than the answer I need. "*Could it*

*be the only answer that means anything is Christ” (Michael Card, Present Reality).* There is knowledge that only belongs to God. If we knew every morsel of knowledge, we would be God. Even Jesus asked God, “Why have you forsaken me?” Are we better than Messiah? Did not Christ refuse to answer the disciples' questions when He knew they could not bear the answers? Did He not say, “I have so much more to tell you but...”

**John 16:12**

12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

**Matt 24:36**

36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

NIV

**Matt 9:16-17**

16 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

NIV

**Psalm 27:14**

*14 Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.*

NIV

**Psalm 33:20-21**

*20 We wait in hope for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
21 In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.*

NIV

**Psalm 37:7**

*7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when men succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

NIV

**Psalm 37:34**

*34 Wait for the Lord  
and keep his way.*

*He will exalt you to inherit the land;  
when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.*

*NIV*

**Psalm 130:5-6**

*5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.*

*6 My soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.*

*NIV*

**Isaiah 8:17**

*17 I will wait for the Lord,  
who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob.  
I will put my trust in him.*

*NIV*

**Verse 13:** The Hebrew for instruction here is **dabar**. This is a popular word in the OT and translated “**word**” many, many times. Solomon has learned that the Word of God is not to be scorned or despised. Those who obey and listen to the word will be rewarded. The disobedient will pay for it. We are to be doers of the word and not mere listeners (2 Timothy 3:16).

To scorn is **buwz**. Translated as despise, contemn, or disrespect. Destruction, death, and perversion await the person who despises the Word.

**The Anvil by John Clifford**

I paused last eve beside the blacksmith's door,  
and heard the anvil ring, the vespers chime,  
and looking in I saw upon the floor  
old hammers, with beating years of time.  
“How many anvils have you had?” said I,  
“To where and batter all these hammers so?”  
“Just one, he answered.” Then with twinkling eye;  
“The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.”  
“And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word

For ages skeptics' blows have beat upon;  
“But though the noise of falling hammers blows was heard,  
The anvil is unchanged; the hammers gone.

**Verse 14:** A fountain is something that does not run dry. The Word and teachings of the wise are a fountain of life. The teaching of the Word should never get old or dry. The fountain is so rich it leads men from death to life. The Word has as its source the eternal God, who has no equal in the universe. His knowledge is fathomless. The wisdom and life we may obtain is unsearchable. The fortified riches are received by grace (Jeremiah 33:3). If the Word delivers from the snares of death, why is it so neglected?

**Verse 15:** This verse makes more sense when we take the actual rendering of the Hebrew word for “wins.” The word is *Nathan*. It can be translated a number of ways, and here in the NIV it says, good understanding gets, giveth, or wins favor.” Now the actual word means to ascribe, produce, or give favor... not wins or gets. To me, this makes the verse make more sense. Common sense will help a person produce favor. This does not limit the verse to one meaning as such. Good understanding helps us in all areas of life. We get and give grace as we exercise our common sense.

Likewise, the way of the unfaithful is hard. We may also say that those who do not have common sense will have a hard way. They are also considered unfaithful. Common sense is way underrated in this world. Unfaithfulness will cause a snowball effect of unpleasant experiences in your life. Common sense glazed with spiritual wisdom brings so many good things to a life.

**Verse 16:** The old saying is true... “If you are ignorant, why open your mouth and remove all the doubt?” The Hebrew word for “*expose*” is *paras*. It means to lay open, as in the way you would cut open a potato to expose the inside that you want to eat. It refers to breaking open, chopping, or scattering. The fool will lay it open if you give him time and opportunity. Likewise, Christian, if you will be patient in all matters, God will expose the folly of the fool and protect you. How many impatient people have dated, married, signed a contract, taken a job, or bought something too quickly? Wait for knowledge, then act.

**Verse 17:** The faithful messenger does not get side-tracked. If I am correct, and I am, we are all messengers of Jesus. The messenger will keep to his duty when he is away from the sight of his Master. The wicked messenger will allow the desires of this world and the lust of the flesh to catch his attention, and thus, thwart the

errand he is on. What has distracted you from Christian growth, witnessing, and church attendance?

Lest we get too critical of the wicked messenger, we must remember that our Master has sent us into all the world, and we must evaluate how we are doing before we are too critical. In *Pilgrims Progress*, we see Christian get tempted in many ways before he finally reaches the City of God. We too are on this same journey. Stay focused.

**Examples of those who were distracted:** Lot, Lot's wife, Moses, Samson, King Solomon, King David, Martha, Judas, Demas, Peter, Jonah, and my favorite... The *Man of God* in 1 Kings 13- Read it, it's awesome. Don't get side-tracked in your journey. Put thy hand to the plow and stay there.

### **Luke 9:62**

62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

NIV

**Verse 18:** This admonition is not new to us. Solomon has said this to us before with slight changes in the wording. When God corrects, we are honored in the end. The fool gets shame and poverty. If you have not learned this as a Christian by this time, let me tell you that without discipline, you will never be a successful person, much less a successful Christian. Discipline is the birthmark of the Christian.

**Without discipline:** You go where you should not go, partake of things you should avoid, say things you ought not say, think thoughts that are unwholesome, try things you should not encounter, befriend people that are not good for you, watch things you should never see, buy things you don't need, eat and drink too much, sleep too long, miss worship, ignore daily bible study, and avoid all spiritual disciplines that are necessary for spiritual success. The Hebrew word for discipline is *muwcar*. This word refers to chastisement, proof, correction, instruction, and reproof. These are forms of discipline that come when we ignore good discipline. There are two kinds of discipline. One to keep you in order and the other kind for correction when you are undisciplined.

Discipline brings honor to the life of a Christian. Lack of discipline brings shame, destruction, and poverty. Bridges says, "Poverty and shame are often the Lord's rod for his wayward children." He also says, "Discipline is to walk in the path of life

and happiness. This is the honor of being conformed to our divine Savior” (Bridges, p. 99).

**Chinese proverb:** *“The diamond cannot be polished without friction, nor the man perfected without trials.”*

**Charles Spurgeon:** *“I bear my willing witness that I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord's workshop. I sometimes question whether I have ever learned anything except through the rod. When my classroom is darkened, I see most.”*

**Tertullian:** *“You may judge the quality of their faith from the way they behave. Discipline is an index to doctrine.”*

**Verse 19:** This verse is akin to verse 12. The waiting of the soul produces all good spiritual virtues, and the fool will not turn from evil long enough to follow God and His plan. Instant gratification has destroyed many Christians. To follow the will of God takes patience and endurance. To be a stupid, impatient, and wicked man, one only needs to please himself. The end of the matter, however, will produce a misdirected life.

This is quite the paradox. The godly man longs for a spiritual blessing. He has long awaited the gifts of the Lord; however, the foolish man literally detests what is good. The word for **detest** is related to the word for **abomination**. Holiness is an abomination to the lost; he will not turn from evil. Now, this is sad, and it proves people are totally depraved. God has written in the constitution of the universe that patience is necessary for building long-term foundations, lives, and spiritual success. If you are a believer, get used to it. God does not skip steps, and He never gets in a hurry for impatient children.

**Verse 20:** I don't know if Solomon knew my Mom but I think she said this first. This is wise, simple, and correct advice. This is as simple and truthful as it gets. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time, with the wrong people, has put me in dire circumstances more than once. Solomon and Mama are both right. Every young person in the world needs to know this verse.

A heard a coach for an SEC team tell his new players arriving at camp for the first time that he could predict their future by knowing their three best friends. Don't let others determine your future. Let the wise be your mentors and hang out with

people who want to see you excel in life. You will reap what you sow, and to walk with fools will bring the whirlwind of destruction.

### 1 Cor 15:33-34

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

NIV

**Verse 21:** The spiritual world works in God's mysterious ways. The sinner is literally hunted down by evil (misfortune). The righteous are rewarded with prosperity. Looks can deceive, so trust the Word of God. The sinner lives as a hunted man or woman in the ways of evil. Whom shall we serve... fear or our Father? **Radaph** is the Hebrew word for pursue. Evil will pursue, chase, put to flight, follow, hunt, and persecute the sinner.

**Verse 22:** The righteous man stores up for even his children's children. This is hard for most of us because we are storing up only for our children and maybe just trying to survive. May God allow us to be able to give to our grandchildren. I pray that we could have what the wicked own. *There is a caution in this verse as well. Many children and grandchildren have come to ruin by receiving unmerited inheritances.*

**Verse 23:** A statement that shows how the injustices of the world work. We work hard, and God has blessed the ground so it will produce. The government comes in and sweeps it away to feed the lazy. The things God creates do exactly what He created them for. The things man touches get infested with injustice.

~Likewise, we may take from this verse the results of a lazy and poor man's field. God has put within the soil produce to feed a man's family, but it does not grow until the land is tilled and planted. The gifts of God will be swept away without hard work applied. Talents and abilities must be employed for success.

Bridges, p. 100... *"What should we learn from this proverb? If talents lie inactive, or if they're activity is not directed wisely, they will be swept away. The same ruin flows from the neglect of religious privileges. The harvest of grace withers into a famine. Slothful believer, rouse yourself and till the ground, or you will starve for lack of food."*

**Verse 24:** People discipline their children in many ways, but the scripture says that a good spanking will get results. We are living in a world today of adults that never were told no... never made to do anything... spend too many days in time out when they needed a whipping... and they ran the house. It is true some kids don't need to be spanked, but they are few and far between. The new psychobabble of the day and its situation ethics refuses to see that we have created a world full of immature adults that can't make it in a world of consequences. If you hate your children, don't discipline them (s, v. 18).

**Heb 12:5-11**

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves,  
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

NIV

**Verse 25:** Solomon must have had a vision of Baptist and fried chicken. He surely saw a dinner on the ground somewhere in a vision. I can speak from experience that God has provisions for the righteous. Christian, what have you to fear or worry about when your Father in heaven owns all that is in existence. You may write my name next to this verse.

**Ps 37:25**

25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken,  
nor his seed begging bread.

KJV

**Luke 6:38**

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken

together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

KJV

**Phil 4:18-19**

18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But my God shall supply all your need **according to** his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

KJV

**Prov 15:16**

16 Better a little with the fear of the Lord than great wealth with turmoil.

NIV